

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

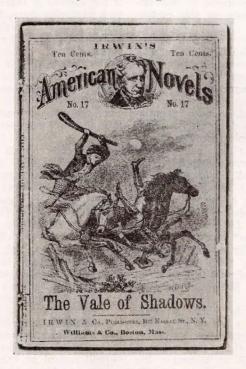
Vol. 40 No. 10

October 15, 1971

Whole No. 469

Used Book Prices

By Denis R. Rogers



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 142

IRWIN'S AMERICAN NOVELS

Publisher: Irwin & Co., 102 Nassau St., New York, New York. Issues: 48. Dates: Oct. 7, 1865 to December 1868. Schedule of Issue: Irregularly, (evidently an attempt was made to issue them every two weeks). Later issues were monthly. Size: 6½ by 4 in. Price: 10c. Pages: 100. Illustrations: Pictorial cover with a repeat as frontispiece. Early issues were in orange wrappers, later issues were brick red. Contents: Stories of the Revolution, the War of 1812 and stories of romance and stories of both the eastern and western frontier were featured.

Used Book Prices

By Denis R. Rogers

In the course of my visit to the U.S.A. in the fall of 1969 I had the pleasure of accompanying our editor on a number of book hunts in New England. It will not surprise you, I am sure, that prices was one of the topics we discussed.

What constitute fair and reasonable prices for used books will remain incapable of precise definition as long as books are collected, but our editor has suggested that "Dime Novel Round-Up" readers might be interested in a short article on this controversial subject.

The factors determining an agreed price for any particular volume can be classified under seven heads, namely scarcity, subject, condition, author, edition, seller and buyer.

Scarcity may seem too obvious to require comment but, in price negotiations, the grounds for scarcity merit consideration. Scarcity becomes rarity, with a consequent rise in values, when a longterm collector's demand (e.g., for a first book edition of a book by Horatio Alger Jr.) has been created.

The publication of a bibliography can also foster a demand in excess of supply (Professor Johannsen's "House of Beadle & Adams" is the classic example) and scarcity can be expected for books bearing the imprint of a publisher with a short life (e.g., The New Amsterdam Book Company of New York).

Themes appeal to many collectors because they offer a wider range than specialization by author or by series. Another advantage for the collector, who reads as well as treasures the books he buys, is that themes enable him to compare the styles of many different authors.

Some subjects, such as the Far West, are of perennial interest, whereas the demand for books on other themes shrinks because the subject matter is nostalgic rather than of continuing interest. For example the number of railway enthusiasts is dwindling with the general disappearance of the steam locomotive and much the same can be said of circus buffs, as the Big Top becomes an ever less familiar sight.

However, paradoxically, a diminution in the number of enthusiasts for books on a particular theme tends to increase prices rather than the reverse — at least in the short term. I suspect that there are two reasons for this.

The first reason is that books with nostalgic themes tend to be collected by older men who, being established in life, often have more money to spare than the younger man with his way still to make and his family still to rear.

The second reason is that, all too often, the death of an enthusiast is followed by the disposal of his collection without much regard to its selling potential, through a combination of ignorance and a desire to complete the melancholy job of clearing up the deceased's affairs as quickly as possible. Obviously the number of potential buyers is less for books on a nostalgic theme than for those with an evergreen subject matter and so the risk of over hasty disposal is increased.

Condition is more likely to give rise to disputes than any other factor. What one collector describes as good another will regard as only fair. It is not uncommon for a bookseller to quote through rosy spectacles and then for the purchaser to be disappointed with

DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP—Vol. 40, No. 10, Whole No. 469—October 15, 1971 Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor. Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. 01560. Subscription: \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per cuarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

his acquisition.

Realism helps to keep the blood pressure down! Unless you know from experience that a bookseller can be relied upon, make up your mind whether you want the volume sufficiently to risk the description of its condition proving fulsome, before deciding to order. Then you have little to fear and may be pleasantly surprised.

If a bookseller flagrantly misquotes condition it is as well to have nothing more to do with him, no matter how tempting his next offer. Of course that counsel takes a lot of will power to follow if the next quotation is of

a long sought want!

It is inadvisable to be too particular about condition if you are collecting elusive items, for another copy may never put in an appearance. Where an item is elusive there is usually a demand for the book and so, should a better copy come your way, disposal of the inferior copy by sale or exchange will present little difficulty.

Obviously a book that is textually defective is in an unacceptable condition, but there are volumes that can be improved with a little trouble and care. Our editor's father saved many a dime novel by cleaning and repair: indeed the Rogers collection contains several items that, had it not been for Mr. LeBlanc's skill, would almost certainly have been lost as waste and which are now virtually irreplacable examples of the work of Edward S. Ellis.

Renovation can be rewarding work, both in execution and in the end product, and can be a money saver for the collector of small means.

The reason for acquiring a book also affects the collector's reaction to condition. For example the collector, who buys primarily to read and reread, does not need to be too fastidious about condition, so long as the text is complete. There is one volume with all the plates missing, which holds a proud place in the Rogers collection: that is because the cover is in superb condition and, up to the time of writing this article, no perfect copy has been offered to me. It is true that I do have another copy with all the

plates intact, but the cover is much faded and so of little value as an example of the format used.

In short, when you define why you need or want a book, a decision as to acceptable condition is simplified.

Finally on the subject of condition, it is as well to acquire background information about publishers. A firm such as M. A. Donohue & Company of Chicago concentrated on cheap editions and, in order to make a profit, was forced to adopt low mass production standards, namely flimsy bindings, poor print and wretched pulp paper. Consequently the discovery of a Donohue edition in fine condition can be regarded as an event. Get to know your publisher and you will be better placed to judge whether condition is acceptable, when a book with that firm's imprint is offered to you.

It is a truism that author popularity affects prices. It could be unrealistic, therefore, to cavil if you are asked to pay more for a book by a popular author than for one in the same format by a less collected writ-

er.

Many collectors do not have the time, the inclination or the temperament to carry out bibliographical research for themselves: their interest can be stimulated, however, by the appearance of a book or an article about an author. This creates a demand and forces up prices.

Sometimes the prices of books by other authors are raised at the same time. That is when a compiler is in so much of a hurry to see his name in print that he skimps his background research and then, as a result, incorrect ascriptions are published. Unfortunately, more often than not, it is the new collector rather than the slovenly author who pays the penalty for such superficiality.

It has been said that the bibliographer of one well loved author, in the hope of bringing to light the rare first editions lacking in his own collection, included estimated values against each title in his book, placing particularly high values on the items he lacked. Moreover he did not hesitate, apparently, to place salty prices on the

other items too, thereby not only keeping the prices of the wanted items in countenance, but also enhancing the value of his collection.

In my opinion prices should never be given in a bibliography, except perhaps recorded public auction prices and even then full details of the sale should be quoted. A bibliography is out of date as soon as it is published, since new information always comes to light. That new data can influence prices and, in any case, there is no such thing as constant supply and demand. After all stamp catalogues are revised and issued annually, but a bibliography is usually a once for all time effort.

The earlier works of an author, written and published before he achieved any wide measure of popularity, are often hard to find, because of the limited numbers printed, and so you should be prepared to go beyond the average price range in such cases—or risk a permanent gap in your collection.

Some books can be lifted well above the normal price range for that author's works by a combination of different factors. I was reminded of an excellent example by a recent enquiry from a member of our Happy Hours Brotherhood about "My Plucky Boy Tom." That book is a story about a search for wild animals for Barnum's circus and menagerie, which was published under the great showman's name, credit being given also to the true author, Edward S. Ellis, in a reprint edition.

Thus "My Plucky Boy Tom" is an item coveted by collectors of circus literature in general and by specialists in material relating to Phineas Taylor Barnum in particular. It is also attractive to the collector interested in wild animals and to those collectors who like stories set in far away lands. As the booklet was issued in The Medal Library it appeals to the many collectors of one of the most attractive Street & Smith series. Then there are the Edward S. Ellis specialists to add to the competition for surviving copies. Finally condition is an important factor, since a feature of Medal Library volumes is their tendency to become brown and brittle with the passing years. It could prove an expensive purchase, if my correspondent is lucky enough to locate a copy for sale!

First editions must be given pride of place in any discussion on editions. The special appeal of a first edition is logical if, as happens more often than not, that edition is a better example of book production than its successors. It is also understandable when there is reason to believe or it is evident that later editions were not faithful reprints, but edited or abridged versions of the author's original text. Of course it should be borne in mind that, not infrequently, the first edition was merely a revised reprint of an earlier serialization of the story: that serial version, for my money, is

In my philosophy the collecting of first editions solely because they were the earliest book editions smacks of literary snobbery. Having made that provocative statement, I must admit such snobbery to be as prevalent as the common cold and just as contagious. Therefore, whether or not a wanted book is a first edition, may well prove an inescapable and expensive factor in price determination.

the true first edition and, sometimes,

was revised for book publication by

someone other than the author.

Series format editions appeal to many collectors and it must be admitted that a shelf full of books, all with the same cover design, is a pleasing sight. Even so it is doubtful whether a uniform format has much effect on prices, other than in a few specialized instances, such as Lovell's Leather-Clad Tales of Adventure and Romancee.

One other aspect of the edition factor merits mention. Some collectors study book production and are always ready to buy a really attractive example of the standards of yesteryear, before inflation drowned publishers' capacity for fine binding and quality printing. In my limited experience the discerning collectors of such material are few in number and so their activities do not generate high prices.

Nevertheless such collectors may well

be worthy of emulation. I knew an English collector, who bought any nicely bound books in fine condition, which he saw, such as the boys' books published by Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd., of Edinburgh around the turn of the century. He said that this side line provided him with esthetic pleasure, cost him little, kept his interest from flagging when offers of his specialty (books by G. A. Henty) dried up for long spells and introduced him to a number of fine authors, whose work otherwise he would never have learnt to enjoy.

Certainly his bookcase was an eye catching display of beautiful volumes and, when he died, the collection of bindings fetched a good round price at auction.

In commenting on the seller and the buyer factors I do not presume to advise used booksellers. After all the purchase and sale of books is their livelihood: in my case acquisition and disposal are not even my hobby, being incidental to, even if virtually inseparable from the bibliographical research, which I find so enjoyable. The used book trade has been shrivelling under the withering competition of modern times and so attracts few enterprising newcomers. It becomes harder every year to find an exception to the generality of hopeless and uninterested used book dealers.

The collector who buys, sells and exchanges is an altogether different prospect. The seller needs to bear in mind that he may be the buyer of tomorrow and so it may be unwise to become known as sharp on prices.

I have heard a number of our Brotherhood criticized for buying low and selling high. That is surely not reprehensible in itself. If a collector invests in books and is prepared to hold them for a period of years, there is nothing wrong in his profiting from his forbearance and risk. The criticism only seems justified where the collector expects to be regarded as a pauper when buying and to regard the other party as a millionaire when selling.

Another criticism leveled is that some buyers ruin the prospects for less affluent collectors by offering extravagant prices for their wants. I can only give partial support to such a criticism.

Restraint is important for the wellbeing of our hobby, but buying and selling might more or less disappear if price competition were stifled and I doubt very much if mere exchanges would keep the supply of books flowing.

My partial support stems from a belief that an offer of inflated prices is rarely productive of results, but does tend to hoist the asking prices of other items in the same collecting field. Consequently the offer not only does the advertiser no good, but it also hits his fellow collectors of smaller means.

Summing up, although the price for a used book is determined by the interaction of willingness or reluctance to sell and the intensity of desire to buy, there are a fair number of different factors likely to influence the attitudes of the prospective buyer and seller.

The influence of any particular factor will depend upon the personalities of the two parties to the transaction and, given that no two human beings are the same, not even identical twins, it will be obvious that no hard and fast price guidelines can be laid down.

A fair amount of the comment in this brief article is contentious and I expect that some readers will disagree violently with my opinions. If anyone feels impelled to put pen to paper, may I suggest that he writes to Eddie LeBlanc rather than to me? "The Dime Novel Round-Up" is our forum for argument as well as being a source of information, and I feel sure our editor would welcome constructive comments.

FOR SALE

Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly. Early and late numbers. Send want list; too many to catalog. Good condition and reasonable prices. Also, in clothbound first and later editions, stories by Sir Rider Haggard.

GUINON

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

4500, ALL MINT by Jack R. Schorr

While on a trip through Northern California I stopped in Sacramento overnight. As is my custom, I looked up a local book store, and inquired about boys' books, and I was directed to the rear of the store. I went over his stock, and came up with a couple of good Pattons. After paying for the books and heading for the door, the clerk stopped me and said, "You know, I just thought of old man Wilson who lives just outside of Sacramento. There was an article in the Sacramento Bee about this fellow's collection a few months ago. He must be ancient by now, because he has been around for years." I got his full name and the book store clerk looked up his address in the phone book. Yes, it appears he was still out in Sunland Gardens area.

It was about dusk when I got to his place. The house was 1880 vintage and immaculate, with a beautiful vard. A little old man responded to some prolonged knocking. He appeared to have been around a long time. I couldn't tell his age, but I would guess it was well past 70. His home was spotless and furnished with everything out of the 1880's. I quickly calculated here was a fortune in antiques. He had at least 80 cut glass bowls and vases in the cabinets around the wall, and other numerous treasures. I asked him about his collection. His face lit up like a Christmas tree. "Yes, I have been collecting since I was fourteen." He took me into the adjoining room. The room had the high ceilings of that era, litby dim gas lights, no less. Every inch of wall space was taken up with shelving from floor to ceiling. It was really too dim to see the books along the ceiling. "But look," I said, as I rubbed my eyes, "almost every book is in a dust jacket or looks new." "Yes," Mr. Wilson said. "Almost all my books are in jackets or in original boxes. Come into the next room." The next room, which was really the library in this old house, was a duplicate of the first room. Shelf after shelf of books, from floor to ceiling. The lighting

was too poor to see clearly, but I did notice the dust jackets. I just couldn't believe my eyes. "Mr. Wilson, tell me, how did you find such a fine collection?" I thought of my own collection, which I was proud of, before coming in here. I was always particular as to condition, but these were all mint. As I squinted my eyes to see in the dim gas light, Mr. Wilson told me his story.

"When I was 10 years old, my parents were killed in an accident, and I was the sole recipient of a trust fund administered by my mother's brother. I had plenty of spending money and a lot of love for books. I collected almost every boys' book published from 1870 to 1936. I wouldn't go into a store and buy one: I would buy the entire series when I could. I read them, carefully saving the dust jacket and replacing it after I had read it. I never loaned them out." He got up on his ladder, and handed me down a set of Castlemon's "Gunboat Series," all six in the box they came in, just like off the store shelf. He reached over and handed me a set of Alger, boxed. all mint. Penn Publishing Co. He had well over 4500 books by his own estimate. We talked for several hours and during this discussion, he said he was moving and going into a senior citizens' home. He hated to do it, but he needed a place where he could get good food and medical care, that was close by. Did I know of anyone who would like to buy the books, lock, stock and barrel? He did not want to sell them to a dealer, but to someone who would give them the care he had. Did I know somebody? My heart almost stopped. I would love to have this collection, if only I could see them more plainly, but the gas light made that impossible. "Mr. Wilson, how much do you want for the entire lot?" I knew he was going to say about \$15,000, which would be about \$3 a book. He brought out an old ledger and in this ledger he had the price of every book he had bought, series by series, individual titles, publisher, the date of purchase and the store. There was the Gunboat Series, Castlemon boxed, 6 to a box, price \$6.00. Page after page

of this. Here was Tattered Tom Series, Alger, 4 in a box, \$4.00. He finally said, "You can have them for what I paid for them, just what they cost me." I just couldn't believe it. Here was a once in a lifetime find.

I promised to return in the morning to inventory what he had, and back to the motel I went. I was so excited I could hardly drive. My wife, who had declined to go with me because of the hot weather, was interested in the possibility of all that nice cut-glass, and for once, I believe she was truly sorry she hadn't gone bookhunting with me.

I spent a restless night trying to get 4500 books into my station wagon without tying my family on top.

I was up at the crack of dawn. I couldn't wait until 8 o'clock, to go back.

I drove out, and when I got there, what I saw made me ill. A crowd of people were crowded around where Mr. Wilson's house was. Yes, was. There had been a fire. I could see the smoke. Oh! How terrible!

I could hear my name being called, at first faintly, now louder. "Jack! Jack! What in Heaven's name is the matter?" I was roughly shaken. "You were screaming about a fire," my wife said, as I sat up in bed.

You know, fellows, this kind of ruined my day. I can still smell the smoke those Loring Algers made. I hope Mr. Wilson got out. Think of all those nice duplicates I would have had to share with you. It shouldn't happen to a dog, leastwise a book collector.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES CONCERNING DIME NOVELS

SPOKE WHEELS, August 1971, William H. McRee, Publisher, 3735 Ector, Beaumont, Texas 77705. 50c. DIME NOVELS, by Harry Pulfer, a Dime Novel Roundup subscriber. A well illustrated article about dime novels having automobiles pictures on the covers. The layout men sure got confused when putting the article together, but the pictures are well worth the

effort to acquire a copy. Mr. Pulfer is still collecting and would like to hear from anyone having dime novels with automotive pictures on the covers. His address is P. O. Box 8526, La Crescenta, California 91214.

THE ANTIQUE TRADER, Sept. 21, 1971, P. O. Box 1050, Dubuque, Iowa 52001. 40c. \$7.00 per year. HERE ARE THE RAREST OF THE FABULOUS ALGERS, by Ralph D. Gardner. An excellent article about the rarest of the rare Algers by one of the foremost Alger collectors in the country. With the prices quoted, I'd hate to run across one of the items described. I could never afford it. Well illustrated.

FOR SALE

Back numbers "Readers Digest" also "Popular Mechanics" cheap.

Eli A. Messier Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895

Back numbers, Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 inclusive. A number of reprints in the lower numbers (can't be helped). Also two indexes, novel catalogue, birthday number and the one number published of Pioneer and Scouts of the Old West. Single issues, 10c each.

All for \$24.00. Can you beat it.
Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

WANTED

ANYTHING relating to Doc Carver (William F. Carver), champion marksman of the West (1870-1895). Send description and price to:

Ed Levy Pleasant Hill Woodbridge, Conn. 06525

OLD PULP MAGAZINES WANTED Such as Doc Savage, Shadow, Spider, Unknown, Phantom, Western Story, Wild West, G-8. Wings, "spicy" mags and many others in the all-fiction field. Must be in excellent condition. What have you? Send list and price wanted. No comics or books.

Back Numbers Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

NEWS NOTES

George J. Gloss was selected as "U. S. BOOKMAN OF THE YEAR" by Bookman's Weekly and Antiquarian

EDWARDS LEO

Bookman. Congratulations to Mr. Gloss. We expect to call on him at his book store on West Street, Boston, soon.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

 Capt. Everard P. Digges LaTouche, Box 377, Hill AFB, Utah 84401 (New address)

347. Dale E. Thomas, 5397 E. 132nd St., Cleveland, Ohio 44125 (New member) 348. Owen R. Cobb, 115 Ramble Road, Cherry Hill, N. J. 08034 (New member)

FOR SALE

EDWARDS, LEO	
Jerry Todd and the Bob-Tailed Elephant. G&D. Good, water stains	1.50
Jerry Todd and the Oak Island Treasure. G&D. Good, water stains	1.50
Jerry Todd and the Rose-Colored Cat. G&D. Good, water stains	1.50
Jerry Todd and the Talking Frog. VG cond. G&D	
Jerry Todd and the Whispering Mummy. G&D. VG	2.00
Jerry Todd, Editor-in-Grief. VG	2.00
Jerry Todd, Pirate. Good. G&D. Illustrations loose	2.00
Trigger Berg and His 700 Mouse Traps. G&D. Excellent	
Trigger Berg and the Treasure Tree. G&D. Excellent	2.50
FERRIS, JAMES CODY	
The X Bar X Boys at Copperhead Gulch. G&D. Excellent cond. Red cov	2.00
The X Bar X Boys at Nugget Camp. G&D. Very Good. Gray covers	2.00
The X Bar X Boys at Rustlers' Bap. G&D. VG. Gray covers	2.00
The X Bar X Boys at the Roundup. G&D. Excellent. Red covers	2.00
The X Bar X Boys Branding the Wild Herd. Excellent. Red covers _	2.00
The X Bar X Boys in Thunder Canyon. Very good. Minor stains	1.50
The X Bar X Boys Lost in the Rockies. Very good	2.00
FITZHUGH, PERCY KEESE	
Roy Blakeley's Tangled Trail. G&D. Loose covers. End papers missing	1.00
Spiffy Henshaw. Good. Water stains	1.50
Tom Slade at Black Lake. G&D. VG, minor water stains	2.00
Tom Slade at Shadow Isle. G&D. VG, dust jackets, minor water stains	
Tom Slade at Temple Camp. G&D. VG, gray covers	2.00
Tom Slade, Boy Scout. G&D. Good. Minor water stains	1.50
Tom Slade, Forest Ranger. G&D. Good, water stains	1.50
Tom Slade on a Transport. G&D. Good, water stains	1.50
Tom Slade on Mystery Trail. G&D. Covers loose	1.50
Tom Slade on the River. G&D. Good	1.50
Tom Slade with the Flying Corps. Good	1.50
HANCOCK, H. IRVING	
Dave Darrin After the Mine Layers. Altemus. Covers loose	1.50
JUDD, FRANCES K.	
The Mystery of the Swaying Curtains. Cupples & Leon. Fair	1.00
KAY, ROSS	
The Go Ahead Boys and Simon's Mine. Goldsmith. Covers loose	1.00
The Go Ahead Boys and the Racing Motor Boat. Goldsmith. VG	2.00
The Go Ahead Boys in the Island Camp. Barse & Hopkins. Fair	
The Big War Series. Dodging the North Sea Mines. Barse. VG. Red cov	2.00
Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. 02720	

ATTENTION OLD TIMERS

Advanced collector of boy's old juveniles needs following hardbacks to complete his library. When quoting, supply publisher, (date if given), condition and price. Many of these I already have, but I am endeavoring to better edition or condition or both.

FRASER

The Boy Hikers—Crowell
The Boy Hikers Homeward Bound—Crowell

WM. D. MOFFAT

A Schoolboy's Honor The County Pennant Dirkman's Luck

EDWARD STRATEMEYER

The Young Volcano Explorers—LL&S
The Minute Boys of the Wyoming Valley—Dana Estes
Bound to be an Electrician—W. L. Allison
School Days of Fred Hartley—W. L. Allison
By Pluck, not Luck—W. L. Allison
Camera Bob—W. L. Allison
Oliver Bright's Search—Merriam Co.
Larry the Wanderer—Merriam Co.
True to Himself—Merriam Co.
Dave Porter at Bear Camp—LL&S (gold letters ONLY)
Dave Porter and His War Honors—LL&S (gold letters ONLY)

ARTHUR M. WINFIELD

The Rover Boys on the Great Lakes—Mershon
The Rover Boys in the Mountains—Mershon
The Rover Boys in Camp—Mershon
The Rover Boys on the Plains—Mershon
The Rover Boys in Southern Waters—Mershon

The Rover Boys Under Canvas—G&D (GREEN binding ONLY)
On Fortune's Trail—(hardback ONLY)

JAMES COOPER WHEELER

Captain Pete of Alaska-E. P. Dutton

EUSTACE L. WILLIAMS

The Substitute Quarterback

HAWLEY WILLIAMS

Batter Up—Appleton Quarterback Reckless—Appleton Five Yards to Go—Appleton The Winning Hit—Appleton Fair Play—Appleton Straight Ahead—Appleton

CLARENCE YOUNG

Ned, Bob and Jerry in the Army—C&L Ned, Bob and Jerry on the Firing Line—C&L Ned, Bob and Jerry Bound for Home—C&L

(See previous Roundup issues for other titles wanted)



Frank Merriwell re-circles the bases by popular demand.

Champion of the weak, implacable foe of bullies of any stripe. He could overcome hopeless odds, always disclaimed sham and show.

This was Frank Merriwell – America's great youthful hero of fiction and the squarest square-shooter of them all,

Back in the early 1900's the Frank Merriwell series enjoyed a fantastic following, selling more books than the *Bible* itself. (Frank must have had mixed feelings winning that one.)

Now he returns—hot off the presses. Just like the original novels and sure to be real collector's items! First in the series—Frank Merriwell's Schooldays—is available in paperback—95¢. In hardcover—\$3.95. And the handsome commemorative issue properly inscribed to celebrate Frank's return sells for only \$5.00.

Final thought: Today's young people might wince at the comparison, but trim their beards, fit them in a Yale blue blazer and you'll find a lot of doughty Frank Merriwell...

Smith Street Publications 20 DuPont Street, Plainview, New York 11803

Please send me Frank Merriwell's Schooldays in the following numbers:

Paperbound copies @ \$.95 each.
Hardcover copies @ \$3.95 each.

Commemorative copies @ \$5.00 each.

Include, in addition, 35 cents for each book to cover postage and handling. Send personal check or money order (no cash or stamps, please).

Name
Address
City State
Zip